THE PULSE

News of the
New England Deaconess Hospital Employees

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MISS ADA W HAMLYN

" . . . And I want to thank everyone at the Deaconess for being so nice to me while I was in the hospital—especially the real small lady on the fourth floor." All of us at the Deaconess recognize that "real small lady" as Miss Ada Hamlyn. "Hammie" enjoys helping people and letters with excerpts like this, written to the hospital by patients on Deaconess IV, prove how much her thoughtfulness and kindness mean.

Miss Hamlyn became the hostess on Deaconess IV in 1942, but this was by no means her first work with the Hospital. She began as attendant nurse in 1920 at the Palmer Memorial when it was a home for incurables on Blue Hill Avenue in Roxbury. "Hammie" wanted to be a nurse but her health would not allow it. Miss Hagen was superintendent of the home and in a few years "Hammie" became her secretary. Miss Hamlyn continued as Miss Hagen's secretary in the Palmer Memorial Hospital. However, this included much more than actual secretarial work; "Hammie" kept patients' records, took dictation from the doctors, and did cashiering.

Although Miss Hamlyn is now an American citizen, she was born in Saint John's, Newfoundland and lived there until she was 20 years old. Her first work in the United States was with a non-denominational church group. For 8 years she taught Bible Study, worked with young people's groups, and gave sewing lessons. As far as sewing goes, "Hammie" says everyone laughs at her because she can't make clothes for herself and yet she can buy a dress 3 sizes too large for her, cut it down, and completely remake it to her size.

"Hammie" is an avid reader. She is particularly fond of poetry and her favorite poet is Whittier. She also likes books on philosophy. Mrs. Paine, our librarian, is a frequent visitor to her desk on Deaconess IV. Room 232 in Harris Hall where "Hammie" lives is always open to the student nurses. Everyone at the Hospital knows, and can't help liking, the "real small lady on the fourth floor," whom we all call "Hammie.'

CREDIT UNION

Eighty-three Deaconess employees are now members of the Alpha Credit Union, with one or more $5 shares. Dividends are paid on each share left on deposit to October 31. It is possible for an employee to have a joint account with husband or wife for the purpose of saving and withdrawal. Members are saving for trips, "glad rags," educational fees, as well as for the rainy day. Even 50c deposited each pay day soon becomes a worthwhile sum! Employees who are not members are urged to seriously consider joining.

The directors voted at their last meeting to insure all loan accounts, so that in case of death of a borrower, any outstanding loan would be paid by the insurance company.

NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL MONTH

Cancer Detection Clinic. As our contribution to National Cancer Control Month, the Cancer Detection Clinic is offering examinations free or at a very low charge during April. Our Detection Clinic is the only one in Massachusetts. Since its opening last Fall, more than 100 well people have received examinations and been reassured that no cancerous or pre-cancerous conditions existed or referred to their own doctor for treatment. Appointments for the Clinic may be made by calling Miss Harrison, extension 305.

Cancer Campaign Luncheon. Along with Jessica Dragonette and Monty Woolley, quite a group of NEDH employees attended the luncheon held April 12 at the Boston City Club. Those attending were: Egilda DeAmicis, Natalie Fossati, Elaine Higgins, and Dr. Margaret Holt, Pathology; Mrs. Gertrude Jameson, Gladys Harrison, and Ruth Sherman, Social Service; Drs. Joseph H. Marks, Mirle A. Kellett, and Kenneth E. Gross, X-ray: and Dr. William Downing.

Press Conference. On April 14 a round-table discussion on Cancer was held on Palmer Roof for representatives of the press. Participating were Drs. Joseph C. Aub, Richard B. Cattell, Clifford C. Franseen, Charles C. Lund, Joe Vincent Meigs, and Shields Warren.

PATHOLOGISTS PRESENT PAPERS

At the annual meeting of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists held April 15 and 16 at Vanderbilt Hall, Harvard Medical School, Dr. Shields Warren presented a paper on "The Medicolegal Aspects of Radiation Injury." Dr. William A. Meissner presented one entitled "Post-Partum Endometrial Hyperplasia in Diabetics Treated with Stilbestrol and Progesterone"—the result of work in conjunction with Dr. Sheldon C. Sommers, former Pathology resident now at Boston Lying-In. Dr. Frank Dixon, formerly in Pathology, now at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, reported on "Antigen Tracer Studies," which he began here.

SUGGESTION AWARDS

This month hit the jackpot with three awards for good suggestions. To Emmett Robb, male nurse, goes $5 for suggesting that arm boards used in giving intravenous injections be covered with a washable cover of oilcloth to dispense with the necessity of rewinding the boards with yards of fresh

gauze after each use. To Miss Elinor Keresey, Supervisor on Deaconess III, and to Mrs. Helen R. Quinn, Housekeeper, got $5 each for suggesting that seats be constructed in the telephone booths to make telephoning easier for patients.

Have you a good suggestion for improving a procedure, eliminating waste, or overcoming an obstacle? SPEAK UP! ! ! Think of the five dollar bills *not awarded* for good suggestions *not made*. Think one up; write it down; and step up for your prize!

USE THE BULLETIN BOARD

Do you have a house for rent, car for sale, kittens to parcel out, child to board, or meeting to plug? The bulletin board in the cafeteria is your for-free advertising medium. Please send your notices to Miss George.

LAST CALL

. . . For black pigskin glove, white scarf, blue scarves, red purse, scissors, gold pin, cigarette lighter, key, penny, orchard-colored topper, nurse's cape, and light blue sweater.

Forced to vacate—lost and found drawer getting crowded. Articles not claimed will be turned over to the Thrift Shop.

EYE BANK

After more than a century of experiment and research, science has perfected a way of restoring sight to thousands who are blind. Through a corneal graft operation, eye surgeons estimate that one out of twenty-five of all the blind, or at least ten thousand blind Americans can be made to see again. The principle of the operating is simple—the replacement of a clouded cornea by a clear one. One good cornea can be used to give back sight to as many as three blind eyes. Our corneas are tiny pieces of tissue, no bigger or thicker than dimes, which curve in front of the eye. Nothing else can fulfill their function in the process of sight.

The Eye Bank has been established to collect, preserve, and distribute clear corneal tissue. The success of their program depends upon our generosity in donating our eyes after death. Age, sex, race, or blood type make no difference, nor does any eye defect not affecting the cornea. This power we have to hand on sight to certain of the blind is new; no other generation has possessed so precious a gift.

At the present time the cornea must be removed in a hospital. The Deaconess is affiliated with the Boston Eye Bank; certain doctors on our staff will be familiar with Eye Bank procedure. Donation forms are available at the Admitting Office for patients and for employees who wish to give their eyes after death to the Eye Bank.

CONGRATULATIONS TO US

Our contribution to the Red Cross this year was $604. This is a larger amount than we gave in 1947 or in 1948, and averages more than $1.10 for each employee. Again this year the Laundry contributed 100%.

The Red Cross Fund Office informs us that ours is the largest contribution of any hospital in the Boston District. Since several hospitals have more employees than the Deaconess, we are justifiably proud.

Congratulations to those who gave and to those who helped by soliciting.

CHAPLAINS VISIT NEDH

On April 11, chaplains of all hospitals in and around Boston were guests of the hospital for a luncheon and tour. Chaplain H. S. Hughey acted as host, and Assistant Director Robert D. Lowry spoke to the group on the past, present, and future of the Deaconess. Everyone was most complimentary about our hospital.

SLIPS OF TONGUE AND PEN

A call to verify the employment of a "water tender" (ward attendant).

Two requests for our booklet "Sewing the Patient" and "Servicing the Patient.' (Serving the Patient).

ATTENTION, DRIVERS

The ban has now been lifted from parking on the Faculty House side of Autumn Street and the Harris Hall side of Pilgrim Road, so . . . help yourself; first come, first served.

BOWLING

Are all you bowlers getting ready for the gala event at the end of the season? The time is getting near for a big celebration—the last bowling will be the second week in May. This year a bowling trophy will be issued to the winning team, and a larger, properly engraved duplicate will be kept rotating in the winning team's department.

FOURTH CLASS OF HOSPITAL AIDES BEGINS

Another In-Service-Training-Course for Hospital Aides begins here April 20. A small number of mature women will be taught non-technical aspects of nursing care so that they may assist the staff nurses. The Hospital Aides receive 6 weeks of classroom instruction and supervision before they assume duties on the floors. During this period the Aides are paid at any hourly rate and will be eligible for full employment following satisfactory completion of the program.

NEW ENGLAND HOSPITAL ASSEMBLY

We were represented at the meetings held at the Hotel Statler March 28, 29, and 30 by Dr. Cook, Miss Shrader and Dr. Leland S. McKittrick. Dr. Cook gave the Invocation at the President's Luncheon, and Miss Shrader and Dr. McKittrick appeared on the panel discussion "The Patient Speaks," representing respectively the nurse's and doctor's point of view. Dr. McKittrick also spoke on "The Proper Relations Between Physicians and Hospitals as They Pertain to Special Services."

GLAD TO SEE YOU!

We welcomed these new full-time employees in March:

Chemistry
William J. Brown
Dietary
Mary Meehan
Housekeeping
Frances Baker
John Jennings
Peter Kenny
Thomas Malone
Margaret Ratigan
Laundry
Helen G. Boudreau
Maintenance
Arthur Chamberlin
Nursing
Mary T. Sherman
Louise M. Fontaine
Rose M. Gallant
Barbara Alden
Mabel Mercer
Pathology
Marie L. Barrett
Helen Halloran
Charles W. Sturgeon
Surgery
Patricia Duffy
Arthur S. Marks
X-ray
Marjorie H. Colton

ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Gertrude Kimball, Credit Office, hit the jackpot recently when a boy, Scott, was born April 5 to daughter-in-law Helene Kimball, former Path. Lab. employee; and a girl, Anne, was born April 10, to daughter Carolyn Thibedeau. Congratulations to all concerned!

BLOOD BANK

Since the last PULSE, we have welcomed to our Blood Bank Staff Miss Rose Kalayjian, transferred fom Deaconess II, Nursing Department.

Mrs. Virginia Martin, who left us the first of the year, has sent an announcement of the birth of a baby boy, Joseph Peter.

We have been hearing interesting reports from Mrs. Ruth Newton, former Head Nurse. She is in Washington, D. C. for a few weeks, and then will return to Boston to continue working for the American Red Cross.

DIETARY

Miss Helen Abrams, dietitian, became the bride of Mr. Paul P. Powers on April 14 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Miss Patricia Broderick has resigned, and is to be married to Mr. Frederick Blinn on April 23.

Betty Hall and Julian Ellis were married on Easter Sunday. Both Betty and Julian are former Deaconess employees, and many of their Deaconess friends attended the wedding.

Deaconess II is sorry to lose Agnes Bragel, who is leaving to go with the First National Bank.

Mrs. Annie Barrett, Cafeteria, has recently returned from a trip to Chicago.

MAINTENANCE

We were very glad to have Mr. Donald L. Sabine and Mr. Bernard Cahoon return to us after being out sick. Mr. Sabine attended the American Hospital Association's Institute for Hospital Engineers, April 11-15, at Buck Hill Falls Inn, Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania.

NURSING

The Riding Club has three new members: Thelma Portman, Ruth Lewis, and Barbara Davison. Everyone has been having a glorious time.

Our only engagement this month is that of Miss Gertrude Heikkila, Head Nurse on Palmer V, to Mr. Al Beer of Fitchburg.

Changes: Miss Patricia Dunbar, is Assistant Head Nurse on Deaconess IV; Miss Louise Cox is in charge on Baker V. The medical unit now includes Deaconess 222 and 201 instead of Baker V.

The precaution unit on Deaconess IV has been reopened and is being run for a trial period as a separate entity under Miss Irja Hill.

Hear! Hear! We have on sale through Miss Ruth Eastman's office, Harris Hall, an unusual assortment of cards for all occasions and stockings for same in all shades at varying prices. Please give us your patronage, as profits are for the benefit of the new teaching unit.

PATHOLOGY

We hereby challenge any other department to compete with us as a matrimonial agency. As we have pointed out before, if you wish to catch a man, come and work in Pathology. Latest testimonial—the ring Barbara Williams is wearing.

Emma Corbo's big day is to be April 20th. We expect to have first-hand information about the wedding by the next issue.

PHARMACY

Last week "Mitzi," a wandering pregnant feline, gave birth to four bouncing kittens in, of all places, the storage closet of the Pharmacy Laboratory. After a brilliant bit of sleuthing on the part of several people, the entire family was restored to its rightful owner, and according to late reports is doing fine.

RECORD ROOMS

Miss Annie E. Studley, formerly Head of the Palmer Record Room, is being married April 20 to Mr. James Stacy Tripp. They will live at 16 Academy Street, Rochester, New Hampshire.

X-RAY

Miss Eleanore Jacobs, secretary, resigned on April fifteenth to prepare for her approaching wedding. Miss Mabel Petfield, Attendant, has gone home to Belchertown for an indefinite period because of the illness of her father. Mrs. Virginia S. Read is replacing Miss Jacobs temporaily.

PULSE REPORTERS

Harriet Lovett, Constance Sellman, Katherine Shirley, Herbert Robinson, and John Keefe.

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Admitting ..... JOSEPHINE MAGLIOCCA
Blood Bank ..... VIRGINIA HUNT
Chemistry ..... CONSTANCE SELLMAN
Dietary ..... MARJORY LEBEAU
Engineering ..... HERBERT ROBINSON
Hostesses ..... ESTHER PRINCE
Housekeeping ..... JOSEPHINE PRESTON
Laundry ..... RITA DENNEHY
Nursing ..... CLARICE ANDREWS
Pathology ..... KATHRYN HALEY
Pharmacy ..... JOHN KARMAN
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Surgery ..... HARRIET LOVETT
Volunteer Service ..... PAMELA WHITNEY
X-ray ..... EMILY VACARELLA